

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 324 085

JC 900 542

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TITLE CCP Student Transfer Outcomes at LaSalle University.
Institutional Research Report #54.
INSTITUTION Philadelphia Community Coll., PA. Office of
Institutional Research.
PUB DATE Jul 90
NOTE 23p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Statistical
Data (110)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Academic Achievement; *Academic Persistence; College
Credits; *College Transfer Students; Community
Colleges; Comparative Analysis; Followup Studies;
Higher Education; Outcomes of Education; School
Holding Power; Student Attrition; Two Year Colleges;
*Two Year College Students; Universities; Withdrawal
(Education)

ABSTRACT

Focusing on student admission, academic performance, and persistence patterns, this two-part report examines transfer outcomes data on students who attended the Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) and transferred to LaSalle University. The first section presents former CCP student application patterns to LaSalle day and evening divisions between spring 1987 and fall 1989. The second section examines programs of study, grade point average (GPA), credit hour accumulation, last semester of enrollment, and awarded degrees for all former CCP students who attended LaSalle between fall 1983 and fall 1989. Study results included the following: (1) enrollments in 1986-87 showed a substantial increase over previous semesters; (2) 80% of all CCP applicants who applied in spring 1987 and fall 1989 were accepted for admission to LaSalle, with highest acceptance rates (89.9%) among students formerly in the CCP Nursing program; (3) between 1987 and 1989, enrollments among transfers were greatest in LaSalle's Nursing, Finance and Undecided-Business programs; (4) of the 832 CCP transfers included in the study, 8.7% earned degrees by fall 1989, 66% left LaSalle prior to degree completion, and the remainder were still enrolled; (5) transfer students in the LaSalle Nursing program accounted for 23.3% of the students who experienced an unsuccessful first semester; and (6) 62.4% of the transfers maintained a GPA of at least 2.0, with one-third earning between a 3.0 and 4.0 GPA. (GFW)

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ED324085



**CCP Student Transfer Outcomes
at LaSalle University**

**Jane Grosset
Institutional Research
Report #54**

July, 1990

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Community College of Philadelphia

JC 900 542

Introduction

Prior reports in this series describe various dimensions of student admission and academic outcomes at Temple, West Chester, Widener and Thomas Jefferson Universities. This report reviews transfer information of this type for students who enrolled at LaSalle University after departing CCP.

Two separate sets of information, furnished by LaSalle, provide insight into former student admission and enrollment patterns, academic progress and persistence as LaSalle students. The present report is divided into two sections. The first section presents former CCP student application patterns to LaSalle Day and Evening Divisions between Spring 1987 and Fall 1989 and admission decisions associated with these applicants. Information in the second section of this paper is based on all former CCP students who enrolled in courses at LaSalle between Fall 1983 and Fall 1989. It includes LaSalle data concerning program of study, GPA, credit hour accumulation, last semester of enrollment and awarded degrees.

Application and Admission Patterns

According to LaSalle records, 827 former CCP students applied for admission to the University between Spring 1987 and Fall 1989. The disaggregation of applicants into the intervening Fall and Spring semesters appears in Table 1.

Table 1
Number of Former CCP Students
Applying to LaSalle Between
Spring 1987 and Fall 1989

<u>Semester/Year</u>	<u># of Applicants</u>	
Spring 1987	97	
Fall 1987	155	
Spring 1988	124	
Fall 1988	169	
Spring 1989	<u>147</u>	
Fall 1989	<u>153</u>	
Totals	466	361 = 827

While former CCP students were most likely to apply for admission in a fall semester (56.3%), the number of Spring applicants has grown over the last three years. By comparison, the number of fall applications has been fairly constant over this time period.

A little more than half of the applicants (53.2%) sought admission to the Undergraduate Evening division at LaSalle (Table 2) while 36.8% sought admission to the Undergraduate Day division. The percentage of applicants (10.0%) to the LaSalle Graduate division provides further evidence that CCP is viewed by an appreciable segment of students as one fundamental element in their complex education history.

Table 2

LaSalle Division
Applied to by CCP Transfer Students
Between Spring 1987 and Fall 1989

<u>Division</u>	<u>Applicants</u>	
	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Undergraduate-Evening	440	53.2
Undergraduate-Day	340	36.8
Graduate-MBA	76	9.2
Graduate-Non-MBA	7	0.8
	<u>827</u>	<u>100.0</u>

LaSalle's Nursing program was most popular with former CCP students during the studied time period with 14.4% of all CCP applicants seeking acceptance to it. Business-related programs were also popular options among the applicant pool. Undecided-Business program hopefuls accounted for 9.9% of the group followed in magnitude by Accounting (8.6%), Management (8.4%), and Finance (5.7%) applicants. Other fairly popular programs included Unspecified-Liberal Arts (5.4%), Non-Degree (4.6%), Computer Science (4.5%), Liberal Arts (4.2%), and Marketing (3.7%).

Eighty percent (80%) of CCP applicants to LaSalle were accepted for admission to the University while only 5.0% were rejected outright. Fifteen percent (15.0%) of the applicants did not complete the application process and were rejected as a result.

Figure 1

LaSalle Admission Outcomes of Former CCP Students Spring 1987 thru Fall 1989

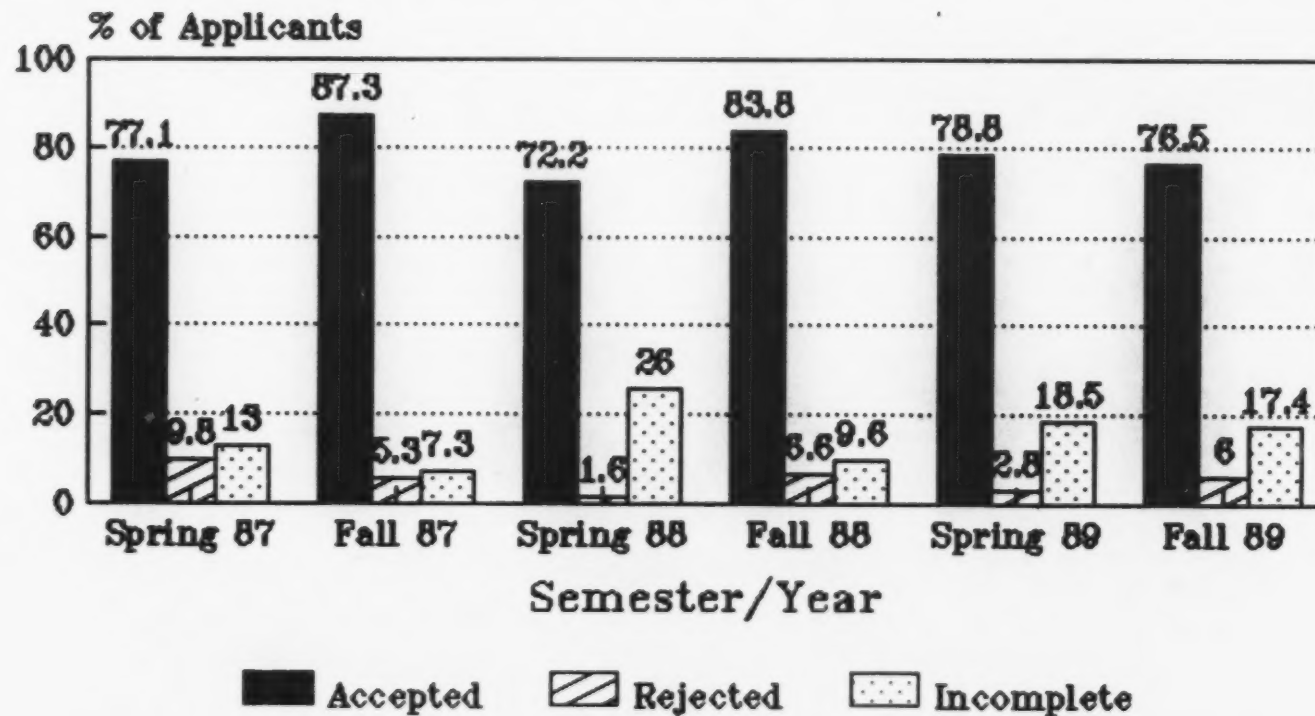


Figure 1 contains LaSalle admission decision trends over the six semesters for which this data was provided. Since 1987 acceptances in fall semesters have trended downward, rejection rates increased slightly and the percentage of incomplete applications has grown. During spring semesters the level of incomplete applications has generally been higher while level of rejections have usually been lower.

Admission decisions associated with each LaSalle program with more than 30 former CCP applicants appears in Table 3. Acceptance rates were highest among Nursing applicants (89.9%) and lowest for students seeking admission to the Liberal Arts program. It is interesting to note that for both of these programs, outright rejections were absent or either very low. Instead, nonacceptance into these programs was attributable to applicants not following through with the application process.

Table 3
Admission Decisions Associated
With Most Popular LaSalle Programs

<u>LaSalle Program</u>	<u>Applicants</u> #	<u>Accepted</u> %	<u>Rejected</u> %	<u>Incomplete</u> %
Nursing	119	89.9	0.0	10.1
Business- Undecided	82	74.4	6.1	19.5
Accounting	71	78.9	5.6	15.5
Management	70	75.7	11.4	12.9

Table 3 cont'd
Admission Decisions Associated
With Most Popular LaSalle Programs

<u>LaSalle Program</u>	<u>Applicants</u> %	<u>Accepted</u> %	<u>Rejected</u> %	<u>Incomplete</u> %
Finance	47	76.6	8.6	14.9
Liberal Arts- Undecided	45	77.8	11.1	11.1
Non-Degree	38	84.2	2.6	13.2
Computer Science	37	70.3	2.7	27.0
Liberal Arts	35	68.6	0.0	31.4

To a lesser extent, this same pattern was true for Non-Degree, Undecided-Business, Accounting and Finance applicants. Rejection rates were highest for Management (11.4%) and Undecided-Liberal Art (11.1%) applicants.

Enrollment, Academic and Persistence Patterns at LaSalle

Enrollment Patterns

Based on enrollment figures provided by LaSalle, it appears that in recent semesters LaSalle has become increasingly popular with CCP transfers (Table 4). Fall 1986 and Spring 1987 enrollments increased substantially over previous semesters. This increase is consistent with the transfer enrollment information provided to us in recent follow-up surveys of former students.

Table 4
Number of Former CCP Students
Entering LaSalle
Fall 1983 to Spring 1989

<u>Semester</u>	<u>Fall</u> #	<u>Spring</u> #	<u>Fall and</u> <u>Spring Total</u>
Fall 1983	31		
Spring 1984		17	48
Fall 1984	32		
Spring 1985		14	46
Fall 1985	25		
Spring 1986		35	60
Fall 1986	113		
Spring 1987		82	195
Fall 1987	135		
Spring 1988		109	244
Fall 1988	<u>138</u>		
Spring 1989		<u>101</u>	<u>239</u>
Total	474	358	832

The largest percentage (16.1%) of former CCP students transferred into LaSalle's Nursing program (Table 5). Business-related programs also picked up substantial enrollments from CCP transfers. Ten percent (10.0%) of all enrollments were in Accounting, Undecided-Business majors accounted for 9.1% of enrollments, 7.3% were in Management, 6.4% in Finance, 5.3% in Computer Science and 5.2% in

Marketing. The only other LaSalle program with enrollments of CCP transfers that exceeded 5% was the Non-Degree program which attracted 6.4% of all enrollments between Fall 1983 and Spring 1989.

Table 3

**Number of Former CCP Students
Enrolling at LaSalle by
Program of Entry
Fall 1983 to Spring 1989**

<u>Program at Entry *</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Enrollments %</u>
Accounting	84	10.1
Bilingual/Bicultural	2	.2
Biology	10	1.2
Business-Undecided	76	9.1
Chemistry	4	.5
Communication	7	.8
Criminal Justice	29	3.5
Computer Science	44	5.3
Elementary Education	2	.2
English	14	1.7
Electronic Physics	2	.2
Elem & Special Educ	24	2.9
Finance	53	6.4
General Business	9	1.1
Health Care Admin	6	.7
History	5	.6
Human Resource Mgt	8	1.0
Humanities	2	.2
Liberal Arts	15	1.8
Lib Arts-Undecided	36	4.3
Management	61	7.3
Mgt Inform Systems	8	1.0
Marketing	43	5.2
Mathematics	4	.5
Non-Degree	53	6.4
Nursing	134	16.1
Organization Behavior	4	.5
Philosophy	6	.7
Personnel Labor Rel	3	.4
Political Science	5	.6
Psychology	26	3.1

Table 5 cont'd

Number of Former CCP Students
Enrolling at LaSalle by
Program of Entry
Fall 1983 to Spring 1989

Program at Entry *	Enrollments	
	#	%
Science-Uncecided	4	.5
Secondary Education	11	1.3
Sociology	15	1.8
Social Work	7	.8
Undeclared	5	.6
TOTAL	821	98.6

* The following programs had only one student enrolled during this time frame: Art, Economics, Mngt. Science, Master in Mngt. Science, Operations Mngt., Quant. Analysis, Spanish.

Over the last two years, growth in enrollments has been most pronounced in Nursing, Finance and Undecided-Business programs (Table 6).

Table 6

Number of CCP Transfer Students
Enrolling in LaSalle Program *
by School Year

Program at Entry *	School Year				
	1983/ 1984	1984/ 1985	1985/ 1986	1987/ 1988	1988/ 1989
	#	#	#	#	#
Accounting	9	5	3	25	23
Computer Sci	6	5	5	4	11

Table 6 cont'd

Number of CCP Transfer Students
Enrolling in LaSalle Program *
by School Year

Program at Entry *	School Year				
	1983/ 1984	1984/ 1985	1985/ 1986	1987/ 1988	1988/ 1989
Finance	2	2	4	16	16
Management	2	4	6	14	12
Marketing	3	4	2	6	14
Nursing	1	1	6	56	43
Non-Degree	0	1	7	13	12
Undecided - Business	1	0	2	30	22

* Only programs with cumulative enrollments exceeding 50 students between Fall 1983 and Spring 1989 are included in this table.

Persistence Patterns

Several indicators of LaSalle persistence are provided including graduation rates, number of enrolled semesters, and the cumulative credits earned as of the beginning of the Fall 1989 term.

Of the 832 CCP transfers included in this study, 72 (8.7%) earned degrees at LaSalle as of the beginning of the Fall 1989 semester. The distribution of the LaSalle programs in which degree recipients were enrolled appears in Table 7.

Table 7

**LaSalle Entry Program of
CCF Transfer Students who
were LaSalle Degree Recipients**

<u>Program at Entry</u>	<u>Degree Awarded</u>	
	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Accounting	7	9.7
Bilingual	1	1.4
Biology	1	1.4
Criminal Justice	3	4.2
Computer Science	8	11.1
English	2	2.8
Elementary Education	1	1.4
Finance	9	12.5
Human Resource Mgt	2	2.8
Management	5	6.9
Mgt Inform Systems	2	2.8
Marketing	11	15.3
Mathematics	1	1.4
Nursing	8	11.1
Operation Management	1	1.4
Organization Behavior	2	2.8
Philosophy	3	4.2
Political Science	1	1.4
Psychology	2	2.8
Undecided-Business	2	2.8
Total	72	100.0

The largest numbers of degrees were awarded to students enrolled in the Marketing, Finance, Computer Science and Nursing programs.

In addition to 72 graduates, 211 students were still enrolled at LaSalle at the end of the Spring 1989 term. These two persistence categories account for 34.0% of the total sample. The remaining 66.0% of the students left LaSalle prior to degree completion. The semester-to-semester persistence patterns for these students appears in Tables 8A and 8B.

Table 8A

Former CCP Students
Semester-to-Semester Persistence Patterns
at LaSalle

<u>Start Semester</u>	<u>Total Entrants</u>	<u># of Semesters Attended Prior to Departing LaSalle by Students Who Did Not Earn a Degree</u>								<u>Enrolled as of End of Spring 1989</u>	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 to 10		
		<u>Raw Counts</u>									
Fall '83	31	6	6	-	5	1	5	1	-	6	1
Spring '84	17	2	2	5	-	2	-	-	1	5	0
Fall '84	32	3	3	3	3	3	-	-	5	12	0
Spring '85	14	5	0	2	-	-	1	1	3	2	0
Fall '85	25	2	2	2	-	1	1	4	4	8	1
Spring '86	35	8	8	2	1	1	2	9	-	3	1
Fall '86	113	34	11	10	5	6	25	-	-	16	6
Spring '87	82	15	22	8	10	18	-	-	-	5	4
Fall '87	135	33	15	18	44	-	-	-	-	8	17
Spring '88	109	20	22	35	-	-	-	-	-	2	30
Fall '88	138	47	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	50

Table 8B
Former CCP Students
Semester-to-Semester Persistence Patterns
at LaSalle

<u>Start Semester</u>	<u># of Semesters Attended Prior to Departing LaSalle by Students Who Did Not Earn a Degree</u>								<u>Graduated</u>	<u>Enrolled as of End of Spring 1989</u>
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 to 10		
	<u>Percentages</u>									
Fall '83	19.4	19.4	-	16.1	3.2	16.1	3.2	-	19.4	3.2
Spring '84	11.8	11.8	29.4	-	11.8	-	-	5.9	29.4	-
Fall '84	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	-	-	15.5	37.5	-
Spring '85	35.7	-	7.1	-	-	3.6	3.6	10.7	7.1	-
Fall '85	8.0	8.0	8.0	-	4.0	4.0	16.0	16.0	32.0	4.0
Spring '86	22.9	22.9	5.7	2.9	2.9	5.7	25.7	-	8.7	2.9
Fall '86	30.0	9.7	8.8	4.4	5.3	22.1	-	-	14.2	5.3
Spring '87	18.3	26.8	9.8	12.2	22.0	-	-	-	6.1	4.9
Fall '87	24.4	11.1	13.3	32.6	-	-	-	-	5.9	12.6
Spring '88	18.3	20.2	32.1	-	-	-	-	-	1.8	27.5
Fall '88	34.1	27.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.2	36.2

The graduation rates for students who entered in earlier semesters ranged from 7.1 to 37.5%. Since few of the students from these semesters were still enrolled at the end of Spring 1989, these graduation rates yield a fairly stable range of values. However, given the rather substantial growth in enrollment patterns in recent semesters, it would probably be inappropriate to assume these trends in graduation rates to be the same for students entering lately. New students in more recent terms are generally persisting at LaSalle for shorter periods of time. For example, 61.6% of students who entered in the Fall '88 term departed after two semesters while the dropout rate in earlier fall terms was considerably smaller. Compared to fall semesters, retention in recent spring semesters has improved slightly.

The number of LaSalle cumulative credits earned by students ranged from 0 to 166. The average number of credits earned was 50.8 and the median was 49 credits. This is the equivalent of approximately 17 three-credit courses. Summary statistics for each program with substantial enrollments appears in Table 9. Generally, it was students enrolled in non-specific, non-degree oriented LaSalle programs (Non-Degree, Liberal Arts, Liberal Arts-Undecided, General business and Undeclared) who earned fewest credits during the studied time period.

Table 9
Mean and Median LaSalle Credits
Earned by Former CCP Students in LaSalle
Programs

<u>Program at Entry</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Median</u>
Accounting	84	54.5	57.0
Biology	10	66.3	77.0
Business-Undecided	76	24.2	12.0
Communication	7	88.7	99.0
Criminal Justice	29	85.8	84.0
Computer Science	44	78.5	78.5
Education-Elementary	24	67.8	68.0
Education-Secondary	11	58.0	66.0
English	14	54.9	63.0
Finance	53	64.3	67.0
General Business	9	16.7	9.0
Health Care Admin.	6	7.5	6.0
History	5	55.0	63.0
Human Resource Mgt	8	70.3	71.0
Liberal Arts	15	12.0	6.0
Liberal Arts-Undecided	36	26.9	17.0
Management	61	49.5	52.0
Management Info Systems	8	83.9	111.0
Marketing	43	78.4	86.0
Non-Degree	53	11.7	3.0
Nursing	134	47.1	51.0
Philosophy	6	93.0	108.0
Political Science	5	85.6	90.0
Psychology	26	50.5	51.0
Social Work	7	77.1	76.0
Sociology	15	43.3	48.0
Undeclared	5	24.0	21.0

In Table 10, credits earned are clustered into five categories: 0 credits, 3 to 30 credits 31 to 60, 61 to 90, and 91 + credits. The distribution of students in each of these four categories is fairly similar ranging from 17.1% to 23.9%.

Table 10

CCP Transfer Student
Cumulative Credits Earned at LaSalle

<u>Earned Credits</u>	<u>Students In Category</u>	
	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
0	134	16.1
3 to 30	199	23.9
31 to 60	142	17.1
61 to 90	185	22.2
91 +	172	20.7
Total	832	100.0

Mean = 50.75 Median = 49.0 Standard Deviation = 42.56

Academic Success Patterns

The category of students in Table 10 who did not accumulate any credits at LaSalle represents those who either dropped during the semester or completed the semester but did not pass any courses. The size of this group (16.1%) seems unacceptably high, given the negative interpretation of this category. In order to better evaluate this situation, LaSalle program enrollments for the students in this category were examined. This distribution appears in Table 11 along with the overall program distribution. Comparing both sets of figures provides some insight into potential problem curricula for CCP transfers.

Table 11

**LaSalle Program Enrollments of
All CCP Transfers and Transfers With
Unsuccessful First Semester Outcomes**

<u>Program at Entry</u>	<u>Distribution of All Transfers</u>		<u>Distribution of Unsuccessful First Semester Transfers</u>	
	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Accounting	84	10.1	14	10.6
Art	1	0.1	1	0.8
Biology	10	1.2	1	0.8
Chemistry	4	0.5	1	0.8
Criminal Justice	29	3.5	1	0.8
Computer Science	44	5.3	4	3.0
Education-Elementary	11	1.3	1	0.8
Education-Secondary	24	2.9	1	0.8
English	14	1.7	2	1.5
Finance	53	6.4	6	4.5
General Business	9	1.1	1	0.8
Health Care Admin	6	0.7	1	0.8
History	5	0.6	1	0.8
Liberal Arts	15	1.8	6	4.5
Management	61	7.3	8	6.0
Marketing	43	5.2	4	3.0
Math	4	0.5	1	0.8
Non-Degree	53	6.4	13	9.8
Nursing	134	16.1	31	23.3
Personnel Labor Rel	3	0.4	2	1.5
Psychology	26	3.1	5	3.8
Sociology	15	1.8	3	2.3
Undecided-Business	76	9.1	15	11.3
Undecided-Liberal Arts	36	4.3	9	6.8
Undeclared	5	0.6	1	0.8
Total	832	100.0	133	100.0

While Nursing students comprise 16.1% of all CCP transfers, students in this program account for nearly one-quarter (23.3%) of all students who experienced an unsuccessful first semester. Liberal Arts students accounted for 4.5% of unsuccessful students while comprising 1.8% of

all transfers. Non-degree program students and undecided students with an interest in Business or Liberal Arts programs were also overrepresented in the distribution of unsuccessful students.

GPA also serves as an indicator of academic success of former CCP students at the transfer institution. The average cumulative GPA earned at LaSalle by students in this study was 2.06 while the median associated with the distribution was 2.33 (Table 12). Nearly two-thirds (62.4%) of the transfers maintained a GPA of at least a 2.0, with one-third of the students earning a GPA between 3.0 and 4.0. Since this distribution is heavily weighted by students who did not successfully complete any LSU credits and consequently earned GPAs of 0.00, GPA was also calculated after dropping out these students who had an academically unsuccessful first semester experience at LaSalle.

Table 12

LaSalle GPA Earned by
Former CCP Students

GPA	All Students		Students Exclusive of Those With GPAs of 0.00	
	#	%	#	%
Less than 1.0	187	22.5	13	2.0
1.0 to 1.99	126	15.1	126	19.0
2.0 to 2.99	244	29.3	245	37.0
3.0 to 4.0	275	33.1	278	42.0
Total	832	100.0	662	100.0
Mean = 2.06	Median = 2.33		Standard Deviation = 1.29	

Mean and median GPA values disaggregated by LaSalle programs appear in Table 13. Lowest GPAs were earned by CCP students who transferred into the Liberal Arts, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Sociology, Liberal Arts-Undecided, and Psychology departments.

Table 13

Mean and Median LaSalle GPA
Earned by CCP Transfer Students
by LaSalle Entry Program

Program at Entry	All Students			Students Exclusive of Those With GPAs of 0.00		
	N	Mean	Median	N	Mean	Median
Accounting	84	2.0	2.3	66	2.6	2.6
Biology	10	1.9	2.0	8	2.3	2.2
Business-Undecided	76	2.0	2.3	57	2.6	2.8
Communication	7	2.6	2.5	7	2.6	2.5
Criminal Justice	29	2.0	2.2	28	2.1	2.3
Computer Science	44	2.2	2.4	40	2.5	2.6
Education-Elementary	24	1.6	1.8	18	2.1	2.3
Education-Secondary	11	1.6	1.8	8	2.2	2.2
English	14	2.2	2.3	12	2.6	2.4
Finance	53	2.4	2.6	46	2.7	2.9
General Business	9	1.9	2.0	7	2.4	2.5
Health Care Admin.	6	2.7	3.2	5	3.3	3.3
History	5	2.1	2.7	3	3.5	3.8
Human Resource Mgt	8	3.0	2.7	8	3.0	2.7
Liberal Arts	15	1.2	0.0	7	2.6	2.5
Liberal Arts-Undecided	36	1.7	1.7	26	2.4	2.7
Management	61	1.9	2.0	48	2.4	2.5
Management Info Systems	8	2.6	2.6	8	2.6	2.6
Marketing	43	2.2	2.5	39	2.5	2.5
Non-Degree	53	2.0	2.5	38	2.8	3.0
Nursing	134	2.3	3.0	101	3.1	3.0
Philosophy	6	2.9	3.4	5	3.5	3.6
Political Science	5	2.3	2.1	5	2.3	2.1
Psychology	26	1.8	1.6	21	2.2	1.9
Social Work	7	1.9	2.3	5	2.6	2.5
Sociology	15	1.6	1.6	13	2.3	2.3

Students in Human Resource Management, Philosophy, Health Care Administration, Management Information Systems, Communications, and Nursing earned highest GPAs. Recalculated GPAs based on students who completed their first semester at LaSalle appear in the last two columns of Table 13.

In order to get a better sense of the nature of the student drop out process at LaSalle, GPAs for students who departed LaSalle prior to graduation were recalculated after eliminating students who earned degrees or were enrolled at the time of data collection. Based on this process there were 391 drop-outs in the study. Slightly more than half of this group (53.2%) had earned GPAs below 2.0 for their LaSalle coursework, implying that these students likely departed for academic reasons. These 208 students represent 25% of the 832 former CCP students who transferred to LaSalle between Fall 1983 and Spring 1989.